

**Written Testimony of Heather Lauver and Micaela Porta of Pesticide-Free New
Canaan
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee,
March 17, 2014**

Testimony in Support of:

**S.B. 443 : AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.**

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

Our organization, composed of over 200 concerned parents, gardeners, and ordinary residents of New Canaan, supports S.B. 443.

We are proud that New Canaan voluntarily opts out of using chemical lawn pesticides on its high school grounds and fields, but this is not the case in most towns, and may of course be subject to change in New Canaan as well depending on town leadership. Protecting our youth from the negative health effects of these chemicals should not be a matter of choice, but a necessity.

In fact, our children have no choice. They must attend school, and should not be subjected to these toxic chemicals that we know are possible/probable carcinogens and neurotoxins while they're there. Further, they (and we, too) should be protected on the playgrounds, parks, playing fields, and municipal greens where they play on sports teams, meet for Scouting activities, and generally congregate. These unnecessary lawn chemicals offer municipalities a quick fix, but don't solve long-term pest problems or grow grass, and the unintended health consequences are simply not worth the risk.

We know that there is inadequate testing and regulation of these chemicals, a fact which is deeply troubling to us as parents. We can manage our expectations and opt for safe, effective ways of maintaining turf and green spaces that don't cost an arm and a leg—especially over the long term. Help us bring back common sense to our communities.

We wholeheartedly support S.B. 443 and ask that you do, too.

Thank you,
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